

### **Recap of 5/28/17 (Judges 6:36-40):**

1. The account of Gideon and the fleece is often used by believers to justify seeking guidance from God by the use of a “fleece” in their own lives. But Gideon’s use of the fleece was not to ascertain God’s will for he makes it clear in this passage (Judges 6 & 7) that he already knew God’s will was to engage the Midianites in battle to liberate Israel. He assembles an army (6:33-35) and he acknowledges God’s direction in 6:36. What he seeks from God with the fleece is the assurance of God’s presence and power with him. Gideon’s issue was that he needed encouragement and reassurance to bolster his weak faith.

2. Signs and fleeces are inadequate. One never seems to be enough. One leads to another and another and another as with Gideon.

3. As we renew our minds in the Word of God, we can know God’s will (Romans 12:1,2). As taught by John MacArthur, God has already specifically laid out His will in five areas. It is God’s will that we be saved; that we be Spirit-controlled; that we be sanctified; that we be submissive to authority; and that we submit for suffering for the gospel’s sake. If this five principles are operating in our lives, then we can confidently make decisions because God is directing our lives. (See the book **Found: God’s Will** by MacArthur for a full explanation).

4. What others are saying:

-“So can we still do this sort of thing? God is undoubtedly gracious and no doubt answers such requests at times; but we should remember that it shows the absence of faith rather than its presence. With the Holy Spirit, the Bible and Christian counsel God has provided ample resources for us today to seek and confirm his will without needing to resort to such ‘fleeces’, which can often be excuses for not facing up to responsibility rather than genuine expressions of courageous faith.” (Alister McGrath)